(vii) In order to expand the role of Central Government, a proposal for setting up 'National Flood Management Commission' has been proposed in Eleventh Plan.

Establishing India as a global aviation hub

*132. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to make India a competitive global aviation hub within Asia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact we are still lagging behind China and Singapore as far as investments in Airports expansion are concerned; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Government are committed to create a network of World Class Airports in the country. In pursuance of this objective, following major projects have been undertaken for development/expansion/ modernization of airports:

(i) Restructuring of Delhi and Mumbai Airports, through joint venture route, for upgradation and modernization;

(ii) Modernization and expansion of Kolkata and Chennai Airports by Airports Authority of India (AAI);

(iii) Construction of new Greenfield Airports at Hyderabad and Bangalore. Operation of these airports is expected to commence by mid 2008.

(iv) Modernization of select 35 non-metro airports;

(v) Upgradation of communication, navigation and surveillance facilities.

(c) Details regarding investments made in airport sector in China and Singapore are not available. However, the details of investments made/proposed to be made in airport infrastructure sector by AAI and others are as under:

(i) AAI has spent an amount of Rs. 3535 crores for the development/ expansion/modernization of airports during Tenth Five Year Plan.

(ii) A provision of Rs. 12434 crores has been made by the AAI in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the development and modernization of airports.

(iii) DIAL, MIAL, BIAL and GHIAL are spending about Rs. 8900 crores (Delhi Airport), Rs.7000/- crores (Mumbai Airport), Rs.1930 crores (New Greenfield Bangalore Airport) and Rs. 2480 crores (New Greenfield Hyderabad Airport) respectively on the development of their airports.

(d) Government is encouraging private participation/investments in airport infrastructure through Public Private Partnership (PPP) route. Further, Government have also permitted 100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), through automatic route, in Greenfield Airports.